

# WISP NEWS

A weekly newsletter for agency administrators and users of Wisconsin ServicePoint (WISP)

<http://wisp.wi.gov>

Send comments to [sphelp@commerce.state.wi.us](mailto:sphelp@commerce.state.wi.us)

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**Statewide Policy for Victims of Domestic Violence Being Served In Non-DV Agencies.** The policy for victims of domestic violence who are seeking service from a non-DV shelter in the “[Baseline Privacy Standard](#)” is as follows:

If, in the exercise of professional judgment, you reasonably believe client is a victim of abuses, neglect or domestic violence or if the client reports that they are a victim of abuses, neglect or domestic violence then it is required that explicit permission be given to both enter and share their information in the HMIS.

For agencies who have chosen to move to implied consent, this means that you will need to identify clients who may be victims of violence. Then for clients who may be victims of violence, a signed consent should be obtained and filed. A sample of a “[Notice and Consent for Persons Who May Be Victims of Violence](#)” can be found on the WISP Home Page. If you are not already screening for victims of violence in your intakes, you should begin doing so. The Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence ([WCADV](#)) has recommended asking new clients questions like “Do you believe you would be in danger if someone found out your location?” The reason for not asking “Are you a victim of domestic violence?” is that often people who have been abused by an intimate partner or family member don't want to admit it, don't identify themselves that way, don't understand what “domestic violence” means, or don't want to be labeled as a victim.

**WISP Google Group Created.** This group is free and easy to join. To subscribe to this group please go to <http://groups.google.com/group/wibmis>. The first discussion that will likely take place in the bulletin board will be about the validity of a statewide emergency shelter report and what can be done to improve the overall numbers. Getting involved in this conversation may give you insight into your agency's own HMIS practices and assist the State in better developing research and administrative tools to get better numbers. The report is posted on the bulletin board page.

**HUD Asks for Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR) Volunteers.** This year HUD is asking for volunteer communities to participate in the [AHAR](#). Last year a sample community (Forrest Co.) was chosen for the inaugural pilot. To participate in the AHAR your community needs at least 75% of all emergency shelter beds and transitional living beds tracked on the HMIS (WISP). If your community is interested in participating, please contact [Loren Hoffmann](#) at (608)261-6633.